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COLD-BLOODED WAR!

WRITTEN BY >> RICHARD STARKINGS

STORY BY >> GARY RUSSELL

ART BY >> ADRIAN SALMON

COLORS BY >> KRIS CARTER

COLOR ASSIST BY >> CERI CARTER

LETTERS BY >> RICHARD STARKINGS

DESIGN BY >> AMAURI OSORIO

EDITS BY >> DENTON J. TIPTON

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Art and colors by
Adrian Salmon

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THE HEADLINE NEWS: THE SITUATION ON DRACONIA HAS WORSENED IN RECENT WEEKS. THE ROYAL HOUSES ARE NOW EMBROILED IN A CIVIL WAR AFTER THREE CENTURIES OF GALACTIC HARMONY.
THE FEDERATION HAS REACHED OUT TO BOTH HOUSES BUT SO FAR ALL DIPLOMATIC ENTREATIES HAVE COME TO NOTHING. AND LOCAL AMBASSADORIAL EMBASSIES ARE OPERATING UNDER STRICT SUPERVISION.
FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVESSS HAVE DENIED THAT THEY HAVE REQUESSSTED AID FROM THE SSSHADOW PROCLAMATION, ALTHOUGH OBSSSERVERS HAVE SSSUGGESTED IT CANNOT BE LONG BEFORE JUDOON TROOPSSS ARE SSSENT TO OCCUPY DRACONIA'SSS MAJOR CITIES.
THE PRESIDENT OF EARTH TODAY DESPATCHED TWO ADJUDICATORS TO BROKER PEACE BETWEEN THE ROYAL HOUSES, EVEN AS INSURGENTS CLAIM THAT THE CURRENT PROBLEMS ARE A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE DRACONIANS BECOMING PART OF THE FEDERATION IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BUT AT THE CENTER OF THE TROUBLES IS LADY ADJIT KWAN, WHOSE ASCENSION TO EMPRESS OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF ADJIT ASSAN SPARKED THE CIVIL UNREST. KWAN TODAY ADDRESSED THE PRESS FROM HER PALACE.
MY PEOPLE! I DEEPLY REGRET THE STRIFE THAT THREATENS OUR GREAT EMPIRE. HOWEVER, I CANNOT — AND WILL NOT ASSUME THE TRADITIONAL SUBSERVIENT ROLE EXPECTED OF DRACONIAN FEMALES. ALTHOUGH AN ACCIDENT OF BIRTH PLACED ME IN LINE FOR THE THRONE, I WILL NOT SHIRK MY RESPONSIBILITY. DRACONIA MUST MOVE FORWARD WITH THE TIMES...

"WELL ADJUDICATOR HALL, SHE'S NOT HELPING, IS SHE? I MEAN, SHE'S RIGHT, BUT DOES SHE REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE ENTIRE DRACONIAN MALE-DOMINATED CULTURE IS JUST GOING TO ROLL OVER ON ITS BACK AND LET HER TICKLE ITS TUMMY?! CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT WASN'T THE TERM DRACONIAN ONCE USED TO REFER TO PARTICULARLY SEVERE AND ANTIQUATED FORMS OF GOVERNMENT?"

"YES, WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE BELIEVES! KWAN'S POTENTIALLY A GREAT LEADER, BUT SHE'S A LOUSY DIPLOMAT! I'M JUST SURPRISED THERE HASN'T BEEN AN ATTEMPT ON HER LIFE ALREADY!"

NEVERTHELESS YOU AND ADJUDICATOR SPLANE MUST FIND A WAY TO BRING THE WARRING HOUSES TO THE TABLE.

CONGRESSMAN, THESE KINDS OF NEGOTIATIONS ARE NEVER EASY WHEN CULTURAL CONVENTIONS ARE CHALLENGED.

EVEN SO, I BELIEVE THAT THE DOCUMENTS FROM THE DRACONIAN ARCHIVE I HAVE IN MY POSSESSION — DOCUMENTS GIVEN TO EARTH AT THE END OF THE FIRST GREAT SPACE WAR — WILL HELP.

COLD BLOOD
DEAD WAR!
RICHARD STARKINGS
SCRIPT & LETTERS
FROM A PLOT BY GARY RUSSELL
ADRIAN SALMON ART
KRIS CARTER COLOR
DENTON TIPTON
ADJUDICATOR

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA ON *CORONSIS MINOR*, I THINK WE *DESERVE* IT, DON'T YOU, MISS NOBLE?

LESS OF THE "*MISS*," THANK YOU VERY MUCH, DOCTOR.

THE HOUSE OF ADJIT ASSAN WELCOMES THE FEDERATION MONITORS FROM MARS.

SSS... LET'SSS HOPE THAT IT WON'T BE NECESSSSARY TO OUTSSSTAY OUR WELCOME...

THIS ISN'T THE OPERA HOUSE, IS IT, DOCTOR?
UM, NO, NO, IT ISN'T... I RATHER THINK WE'RE ON DRACONIA, SEVERAL MILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY FROM CORONSIS...
I MUST HAVE HIT THE HELMIC REGULATOR A BIT TOO HARD WITH THE, UH, HAMMER.

AND, WHAT — WHAT ARE THOSE BIG, GREEN, SLIMY GREEN THINGS...?
AH, WELL, REMEMBER WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WAS A MARTIAN?
WELL, THEY ARE MARTIANS! OR ICE WARRIORS, IF YOU PREFER.

WOT — THEY SHOOT ICE OUT OF THEIR EYES OR SOMETHING?
AH, NO, NO... BUT WE MIGHT BE NEEDING EARPLUGS...
NOW, I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON HERE THAT THEY NEED AN ADJUDICATOR?

MAYBE THEY'RE HAVING A TALENT CONTEST... DANCING IN THE STARS! HAH!
ALPHA CENTAURI! AS I LIVE AND BREATHE!
OUT OF MY WAY, SIR, I'M SORRY, I'M NOT STAYING... ALL THESE MALE HORMONES ARE UPSETTING MY METABOLISM!

GOOD LUCK SORTING THIS ONE OUT...
ALPHA! DON'T FORGET...
...YOUR COAT...

AH, WELL, JUST US THEN. STILL, HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS, DONNA... I'M NOT JUST A TIME LORD, I'M ALSO A NOBLEMAN OF THE DRACONIAN EMPIRE.

UM, DOCTOR...?

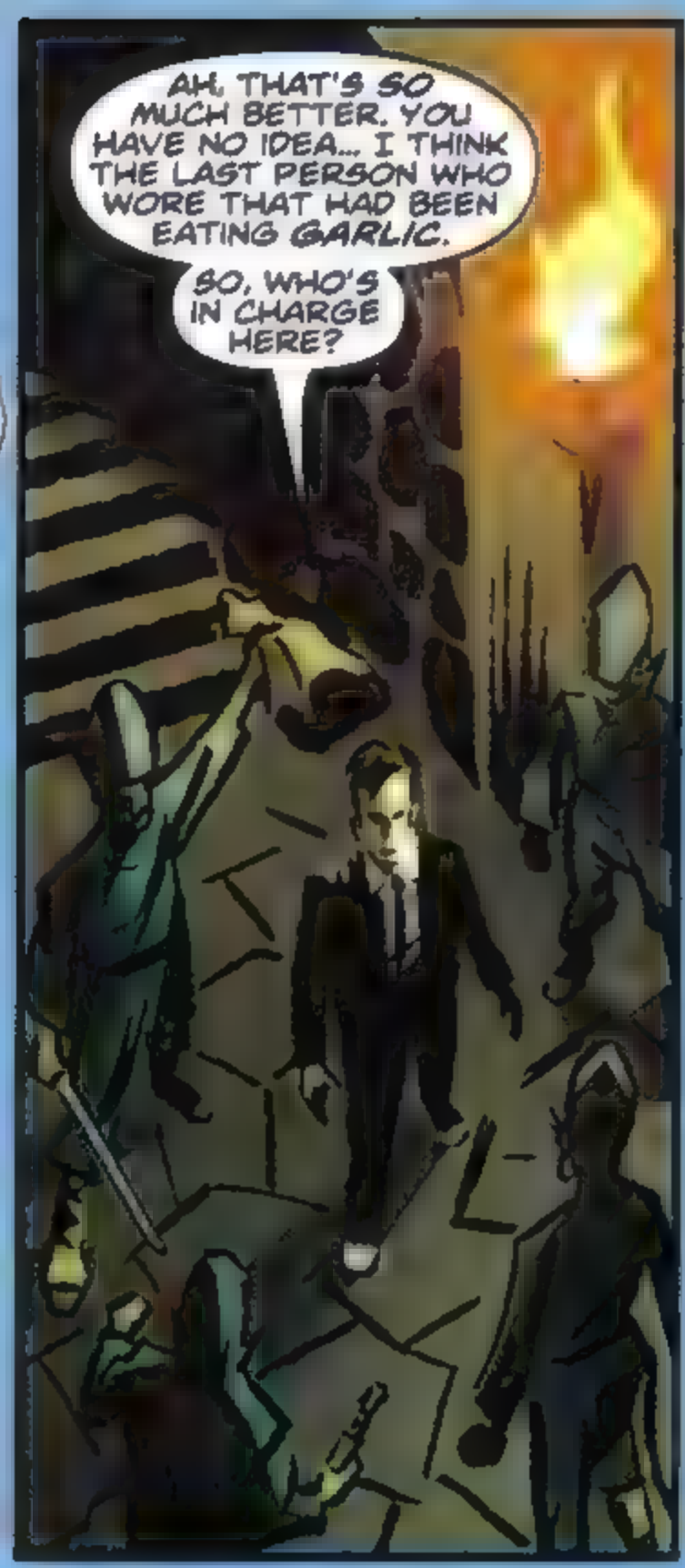
THERE HE IS! SEIZE HIM!

DOCTOR...? DOCTOR?!

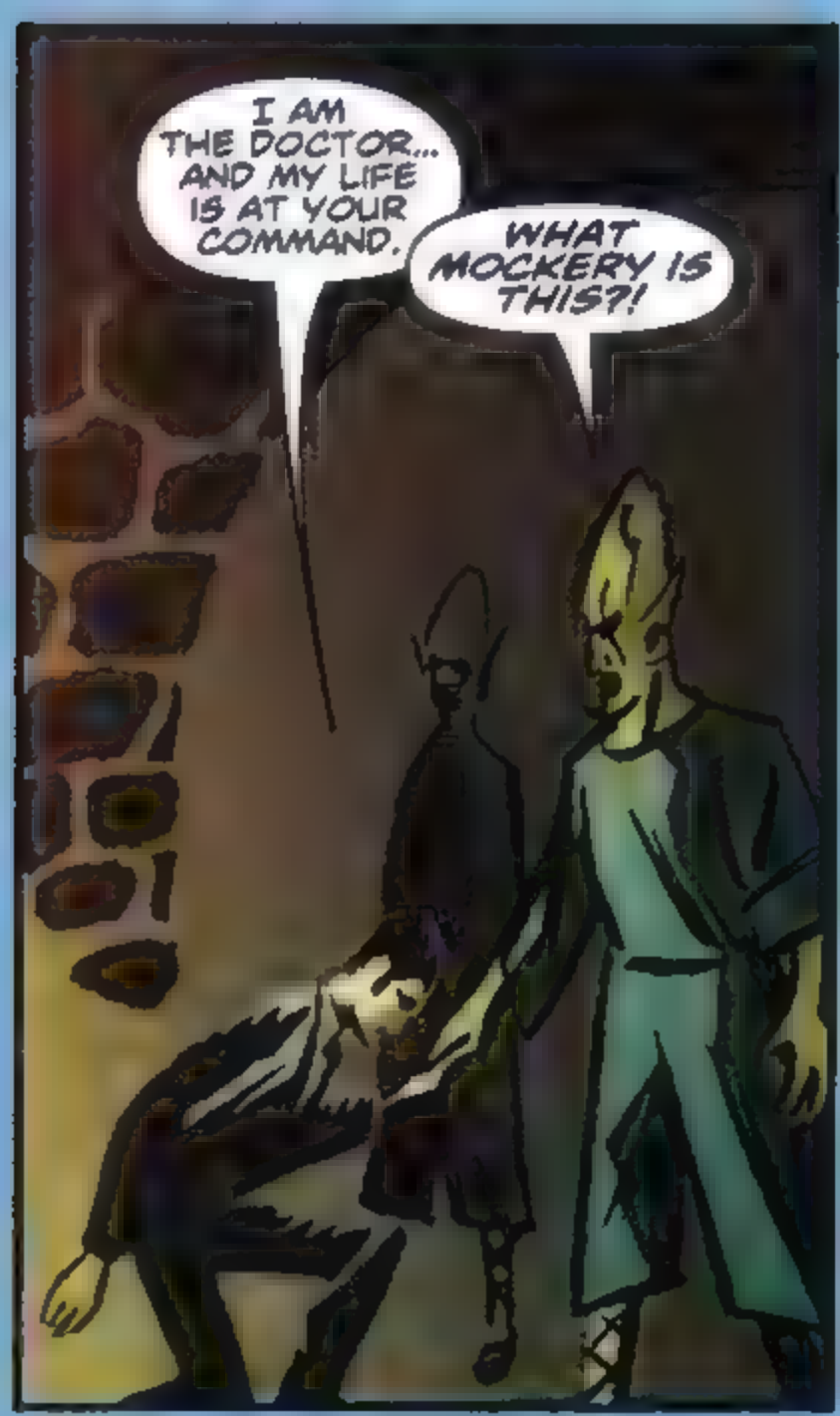
MY LADY, PLEASSSE SSSTAY BEHIND USSS... WE HAVE YOU SSSAFE.

DEATH TO THE ENEMIES OF FUSEK KLJUCO!

LOOK, REALLY, THIS IS JUST A TERRIBLE MISTAKE... I'M SURE WE CAN CLEAR THIS UP REALLY QUICKLY IF YOU JUST...
SILENCE! THE ONLY MISTAKE THAT HAS BEEN MADE IS YOUR COMING TO DRACONIA.

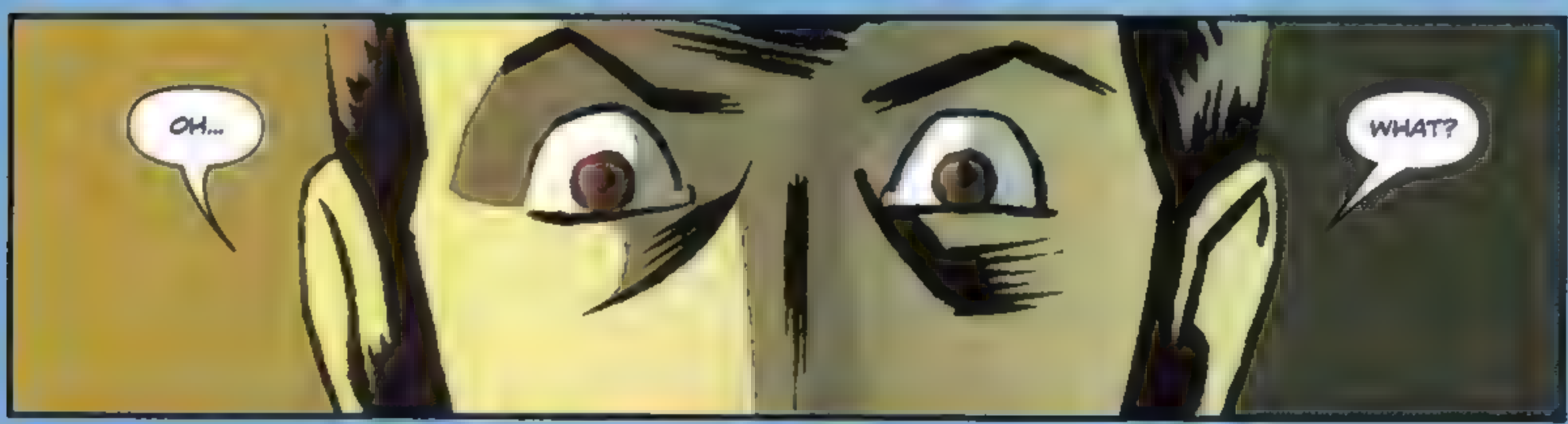

AH, THAT'S SO MUCH BETTER. YOU HAVE NO IDEA... I THINK THE LAST PERSON WHO WORE THAT HAD BEEN EATING GARLIC.
SO, WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

I AM FUSEK KLJUCO. YOU ARE MY PRISONER.
AND YOU CANNOT BE THE ADJUDICATOR FROM EARTH... MY BROTHERS DESTROYED THE ADJUDICATORS' SHIP HOURS AGO.

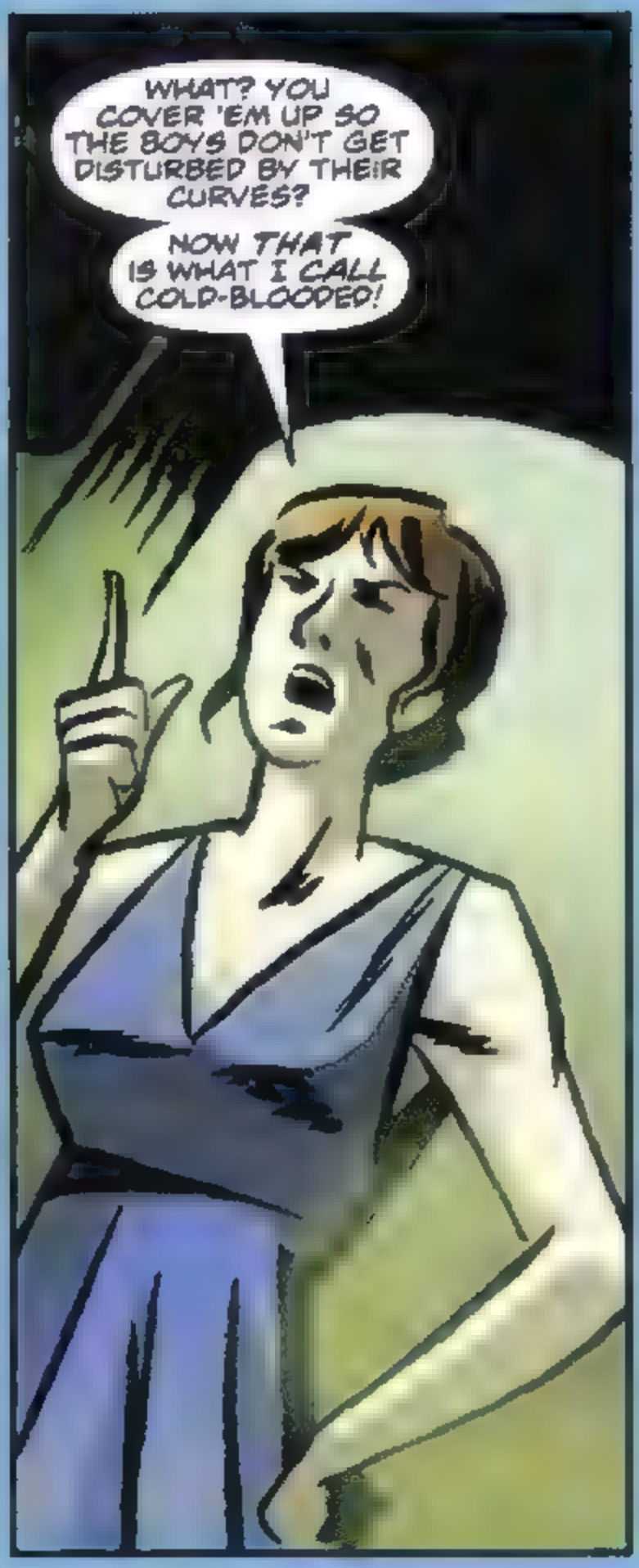

I AM THE DOCTOR... AND MY LIFE IS AT YOUR COMMAND.
WHAT MOCKERY IS THIS?!

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU. I'M NOT THE ADJUDICATOR, NO. BUT I AM A NOBLEMAN OF THE DRACONIAN EMPIRE.
LOOK ME UP... "DOCTOR," "PLAGUE," "FIFTEENTH EMPEROR."

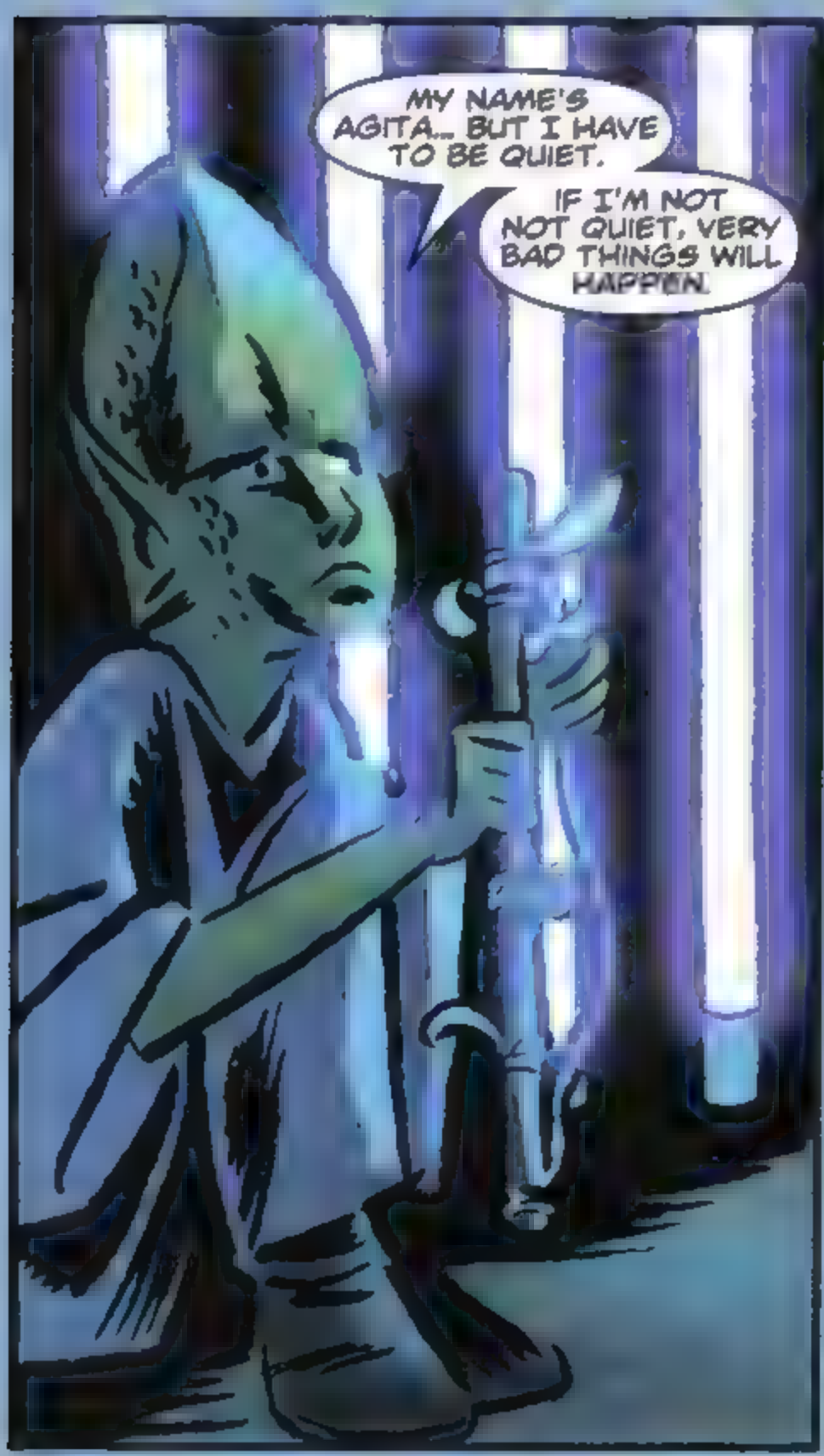
RIDICULOUS. NEVERTHELESS, IF KWAN BELIEVES YOU TO BE FROM EARTH, YOU MAY STILL BE OF VALUE TO OUR CAUSE.
THROW HIM IN THE CELLS WHERE HE CAN AWAIT HIS EXECUTION.


OH...
WHAT?

SO WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
WHY ARE THE DRACONIANS AT EACH OTHERS' THROATS?
AND WHAT DO THE INSURGENTS WANT WITH THE DOCTOR?
DRACONIAN SSSOCIETY IS DOMINATED BY THE MALES OF THE SSSPECIES.
THE ASSSCENDANCE OF EMPRESSS KWAN IS REGARDED BY SSSOME AS AN UNACCEPTABLE ABERRATION.
THE HOUSSSE OF JANDI KUSSSAN ISSSS... RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE RULE OF A WOMAN.



HELLO!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?


MY NAME'S AGITA... BUT I HAVE TO BE QUIET.
IF I'M NOT NOT QUIET, VERY BAD THINGS WILL HAPPEN.

REALLY? WHY'S THAT?
BECAUSE I'M A GIRL.

AH. AND WHAT'S THAT YOU'VE GOT THERE, AGITA?

THIS IS THE TALKING STICK. MY TEACHER AT SCHOOL GAVE IT TO ME.
IF YOU'RE HOLDING THE STICK DURING COUNCIL, YOU CAN TALK ABOUT ANYTHING YOU LIKE WITHOUT BEING INTERRUPTED.

BUT MAMA DIDN'T HAVE A STICK WHEN SHE TALKED BACK TO MY FATHER.
MAMA TOLD PAPA THAT EMPRESS KWAN WAS GOOD FOR DRACONIA.
AND A VERY BAD THING HAPPENED.

OH... I'M SO SORRY, AGITA.
IS FUSEK KLJUCO YOUR FATHER?
YES.
AND DID HE LOCK YOU UP IN HERE... TO KEEP YOU... OUT OF TROUBLE?
YES.

SO YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND THESE PARTS, THEN?
I DO... WHY?

WELL, THE THING IS, I HAVE A KIND OF TALKING STICK OF MY OWN.

IT'S CALLED A SONIC SCREWDRIVER.
AND THESE BARS ARE SONIC, TOO.
SO, IF I WERE YOU, I'D COVER MY EARS.

AND WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY TALK TO ONE ANOTHER!

SKKKREEEEEE
YIEEEE!

LADY CHISWICK FROM EARTH, COMMANDER IXZYPTIR, FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE FROM MARS, WELCOME TO DRACONIA.

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR ROYAL APOLOGIES FOR THE DISTRESSING INCIDENT THAT HERALDED YOUR ARRIVAL.

I WANT YOU TO BE ASSURED THAT, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE IMPERIAL GUARD ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO DISCOVER THE ADJUDICATOR'S WHEREABOUTS AND RETURN HI—

THIS IS A COMPLETE CHARADE! THIS "KIDNAPPING" OF THE ADJUDICATOR HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN STAGED BY THE HOUSE OF ADJIT ASSAN TO DISCREDIT THE HONOURABLE PROTEST OF THE HOUSE OF JANDI HUSAN!

YOUR EXCELLENCY... THIS IS ABSURD! WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE ADJUDICATOR!

IF I MAY ENTREAT THE COURT... IS THIS HOW A WOMAN RULES THE GREAT DRACONIAN EMPIRE?!
BY INVITING THESE FEDERATION THUGS TO THE HOMEWORLD TO DO HER DIRTY WORK?

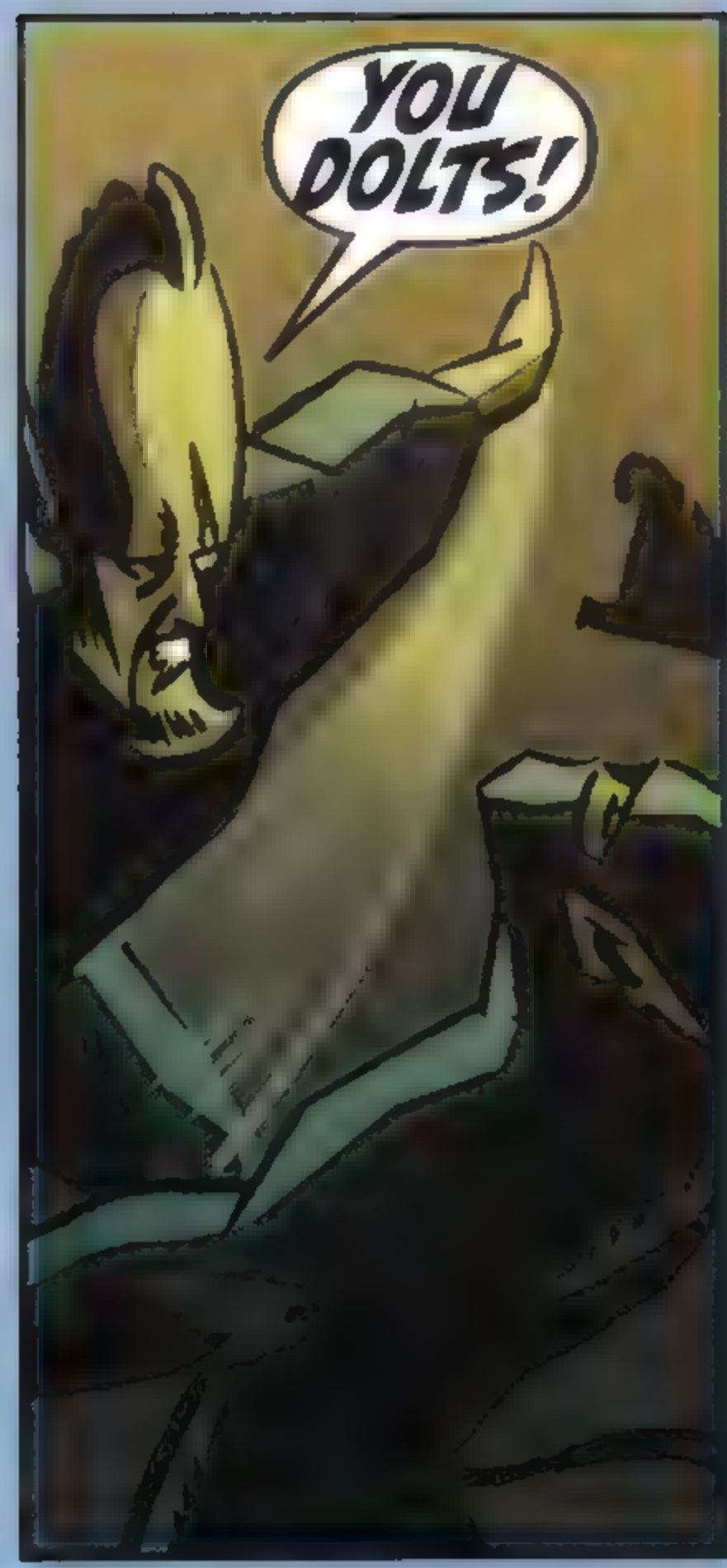
IT IS BECAUSE OF THE ACTIONS OF THE EXTREMISTS — THOSE SAME INSURGENTS WHO HAVE KIDNAPPED THE ADJUDICATOR — THAT HER EXCELLENCY APPEALED TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE FEDERATION FOR SUPPORT.
CAN YOU DENY THAT YOU WERE A KNOWN ASSOCIATE OF FUSEK KLJUCO IN THE PAST?

I PROUDLY SERVED THE EMPIRE ALONGSIDE KLJUCO IN THE DRACONIAN ARMY—
—ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT MY CAREER IN THE MILITARY IS NOW A MATTER OF TREASON...?

OH MY GIDDY AUNT.
SHUT IT!

UM. MY POINT....
...AND I DO HAVE ONE...

WHAT IS THIS...?
THE PRISONER? MY DAUGHTER?


YOU DOLTS!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
I AM TIRED OF SKULKING IN THE SHADOWS WHILE THE DRACONIAN EMPIRE FALLS TO ITS KNEES.
I WILL KILL THE EMPRESS MYSELF!

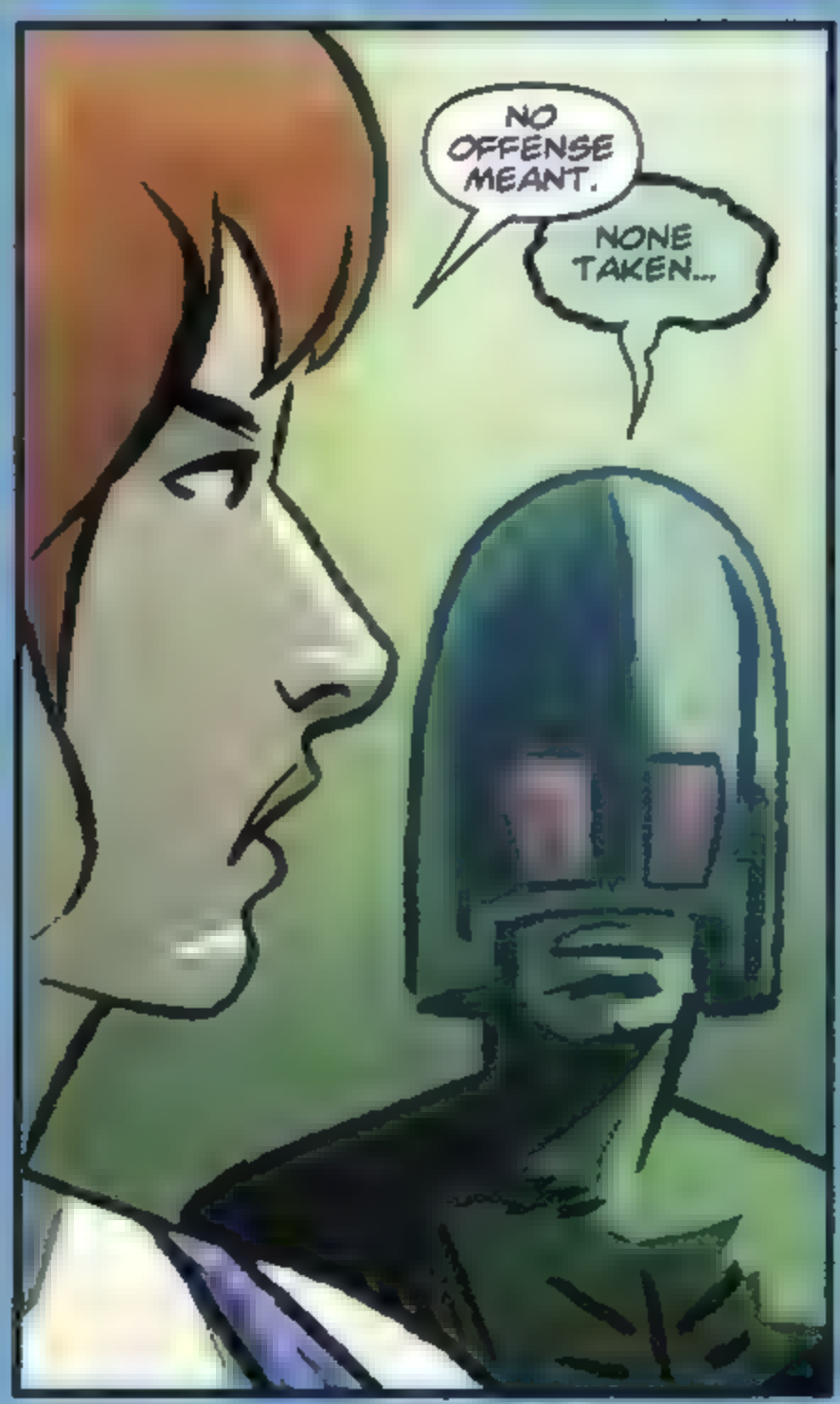
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE PALACE AND TALK TO THE EMPRESS, AGITA...
...ALTHOUGH I'M WILLING TO GUESS THAT DONNA'S PROBABLY DOING PLENTY OF TALKING ALL BY HERSELF...

HAVE YOU LISTENED TO YOURSELVES?
WHAT DOES ALL THIS MATTER?
MY FELLOW, UH, ADJUDICATOR, HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED AND MAY BE DEAD, AND YOU'RE ALL STRUTTING ABOUT LIKE A BUNCH OF BANTAM COCKS, TRYING TO DECIDE WHO CAN CROW THE LOUDEST!

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO US IN THIS WAY—
NO, LET LADY CHISWICK CONTINUE. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO HEAR HER THOUGHTS.

LOOK, BUSTER. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WERE HATCHED OUT OF AN EGG OR BIRTHED UNDERWATER OR WHAT — BUT I'M PRETTY CERTAIN YOU HAD A MOTHER, RIGHT?
AND SHE LOVED YOU, DIDN'T SHE? TOOK CARE OF YOU...
AND I BET SHE'D CLIP YOU ROUND THE, UH, EAR WHEN YOU FOUGHT WITH YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, RIGHT?

SO YOU'RE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT OF A WOMAN BEING IN CHARGE, AIN'TCHA?
YOU BOYS ARE ALWAYS TRYING TO WIN OVER ONE ANOTHER, YOU WANNA TAKE TURNS BEING "THE BOSS."
WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING IS WINNING OVER YOURSELVES, OVER YOUR DOUBTS ABOUT EACH OTHER. OTHERWISE— OTHERWISE, YOU MAY AS WELL BE EATING YOUR OWN CHILDREN!


NO OFFENSE MEANT.
NONE TAKEN...

CAUSE, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, YOUR WOMEN KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR LITTLE INSECURITIES.
AND, LUCKILY FOR YOU, WE CHOOSE TO IGNORE THEM!

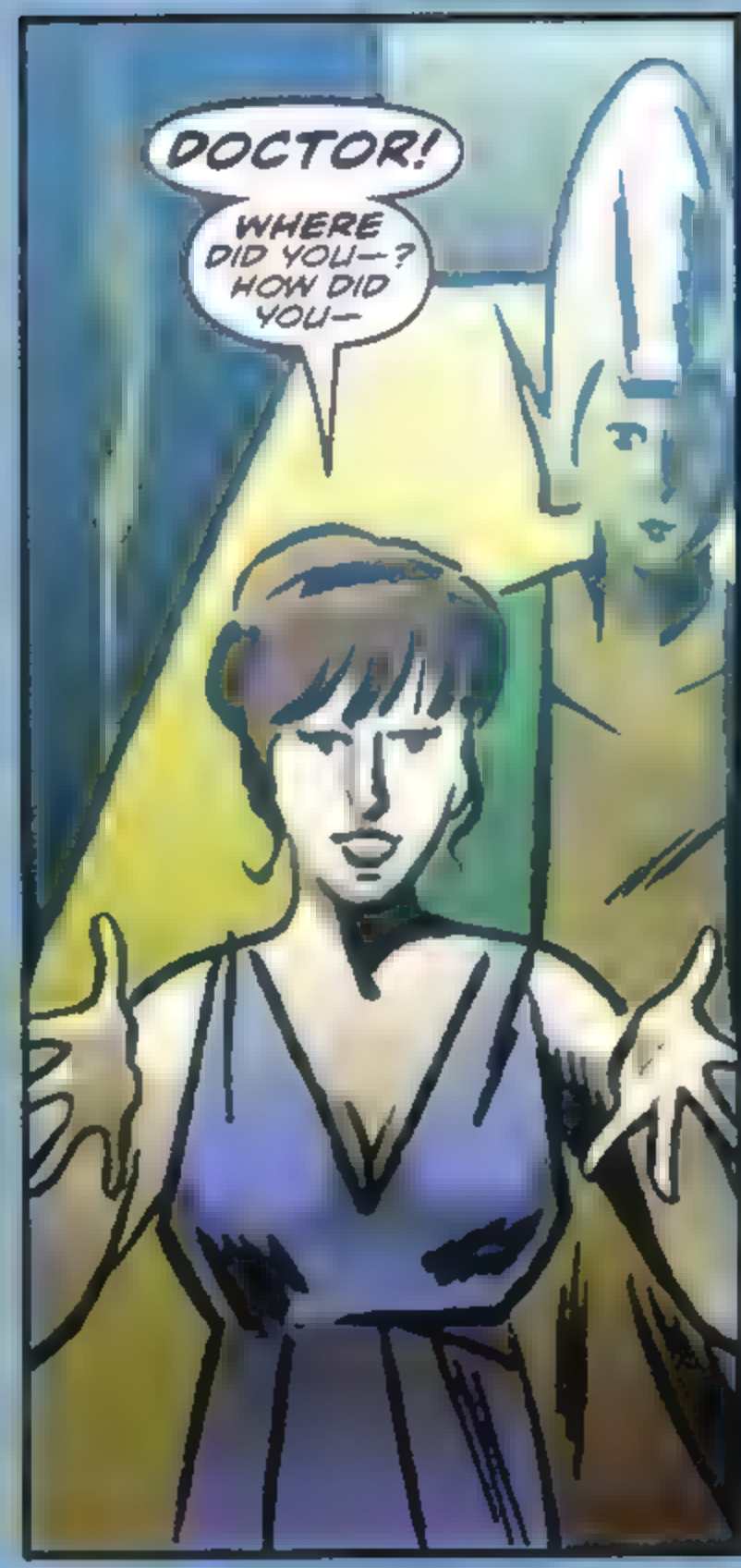
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, YOUR EXCELLENCY?
THANK YOU, LADY CHISWICK. IT SEEMS TO ME YOU UNDERSTAND DRACONIAN POLITICS PERFECTLY!

CAN'T YOU SEE THE VALUE OF HAVING A FEMALE IN CHARGE?
LIKE YOUR MOTHER, SHE IS WISE OF MIND, COMPASSIONATE OF HEART, AND SHE WILL ALWAYS TAKE COURAGEOUS ACTION TO PROTECT HER MEN.
I— YES... I HEED YOUR WORDS...

PERHAPS NOW, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ROYAL HOUSES ADJIT ASSAN AND JANDI HUSAN CAN POOL THEIR RESOURCES AND FIND THE EXTREMISTS WHO KIDNAPPED OUR ADJUDICATOR?

YES, YOUR EXCELLENCY.
WELL, I'M HERE TO TELL YOU...

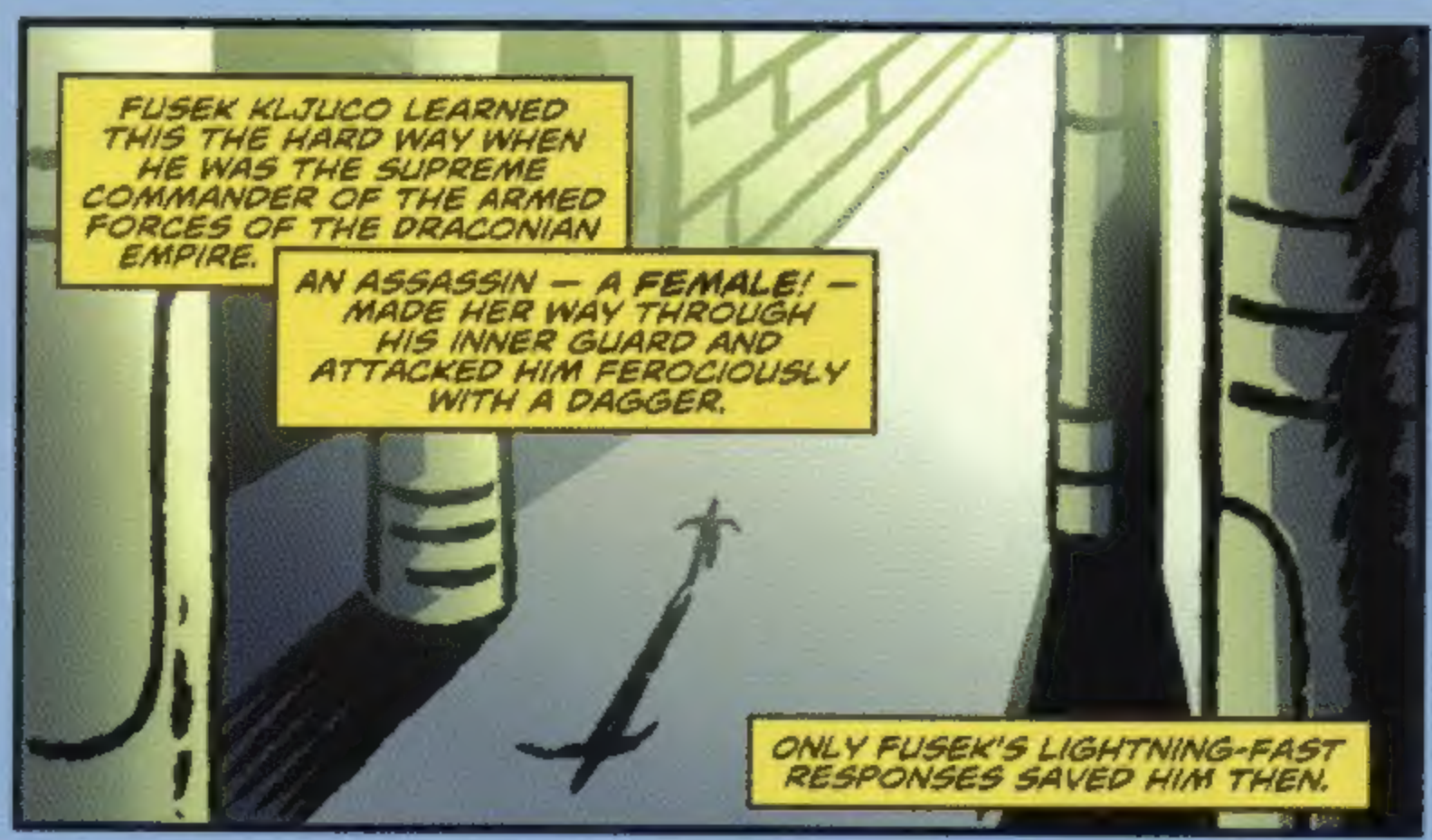
...THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY!
THIS— THIS IS THE EMPRESS' THRONE ROOM!


DOCTOR!
WHERE DID YOU—? HOW DID YOU—

—YOU HAD ME WORRIED, SPACEBOY!
STEADY ON—

—MY REMARKABLE ESCAPE IS ALL DOWN TO THIS LOVELY GIRL HERE.
SAY HELLO, AGITA...
UM... HELLO.

RESCUED— BY A LITTLE GIRL! WHERE WOULD YOU LOT BE WITHOUT THE FAIRER SEX? HMM?
YES. THE POINT IS TAKEN!
MY LADY.
...MY... LADY.



THE EMPRESS WILL NOT BE SO LUCKY.

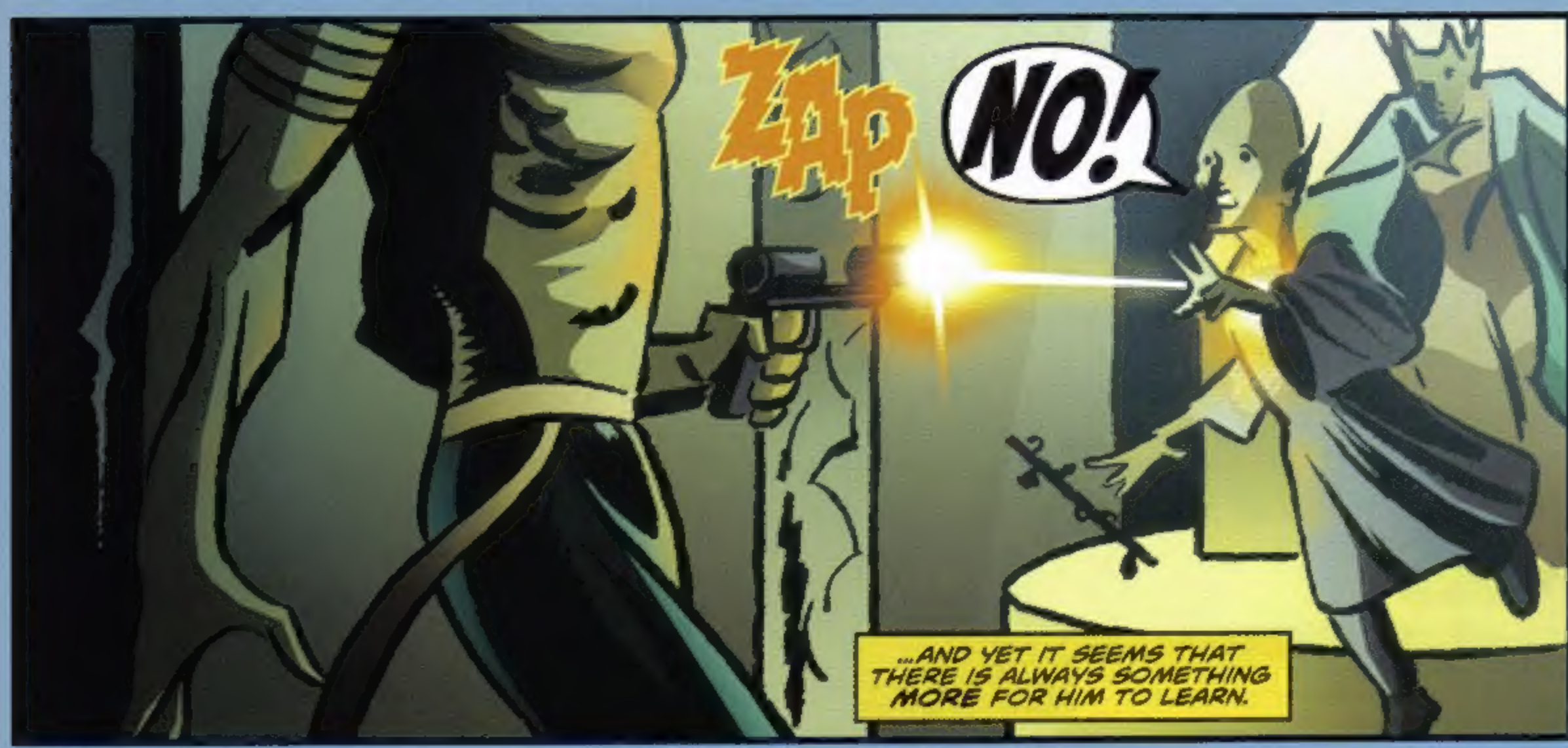
WHAT DOES A WOMAN KNOW OF THE ART OF WAR?

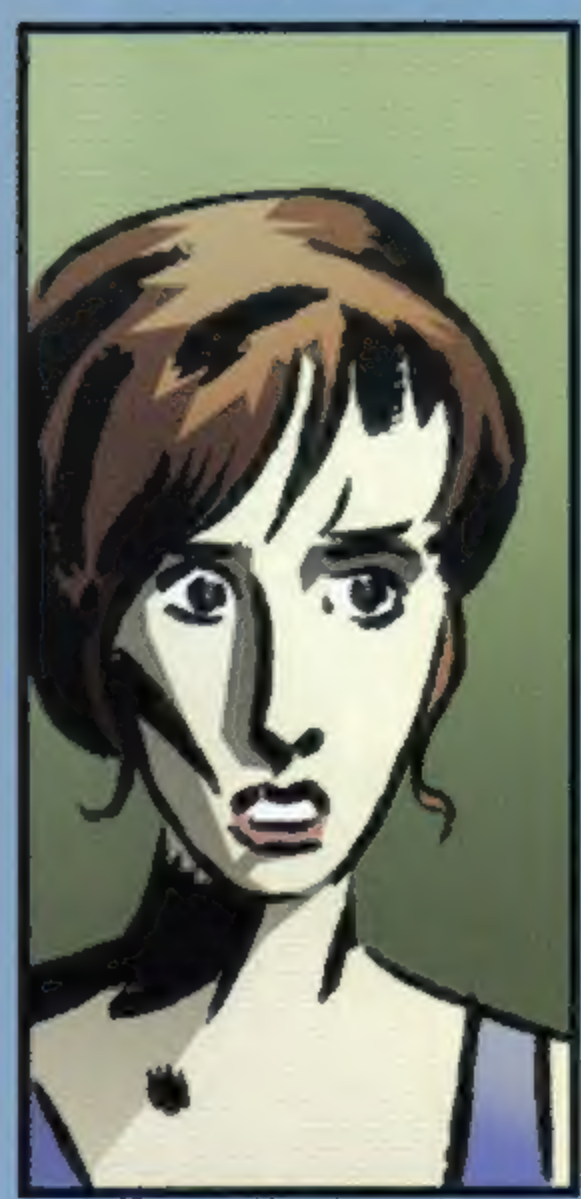
HOW DARE SHE HAVE HIM DISMISSED FROM HIS POST?

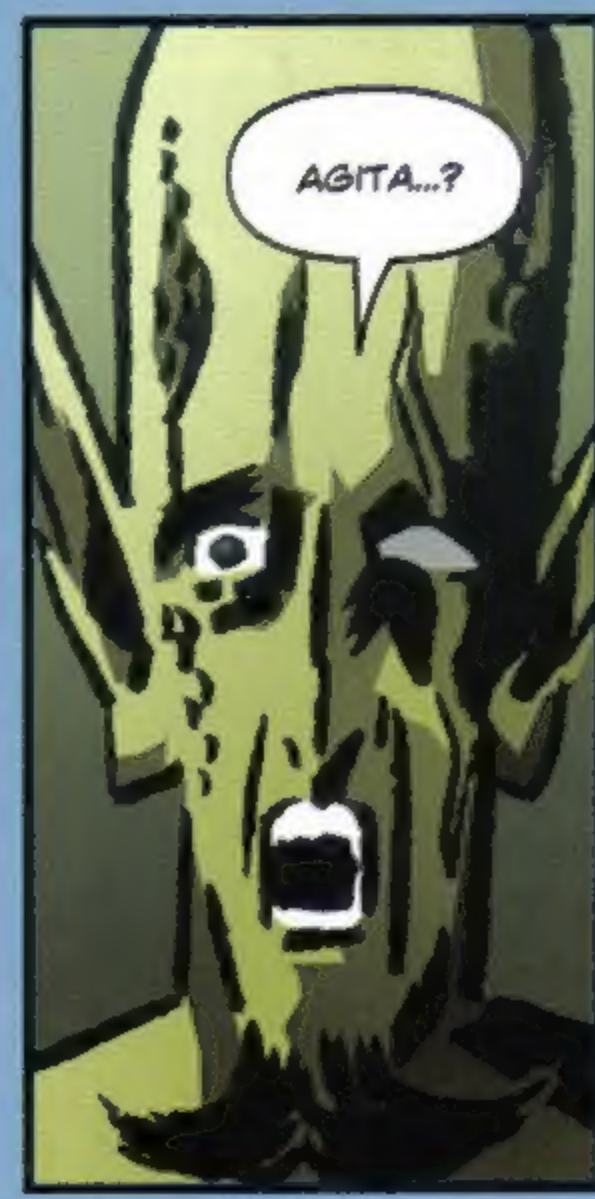
COME UP HERE, LOVE. C'MON. I THINK IT'S TIME YOU MET EMPRESS KWAN... YOU'VE GOT THE TALKING STICK, RIGHT?

FUSEK KLJUCO HAS LEARNED MANY THINGS THE HARD WAY...
DEATH TO THE DAUGHTER OF ADJIT ASSAN!

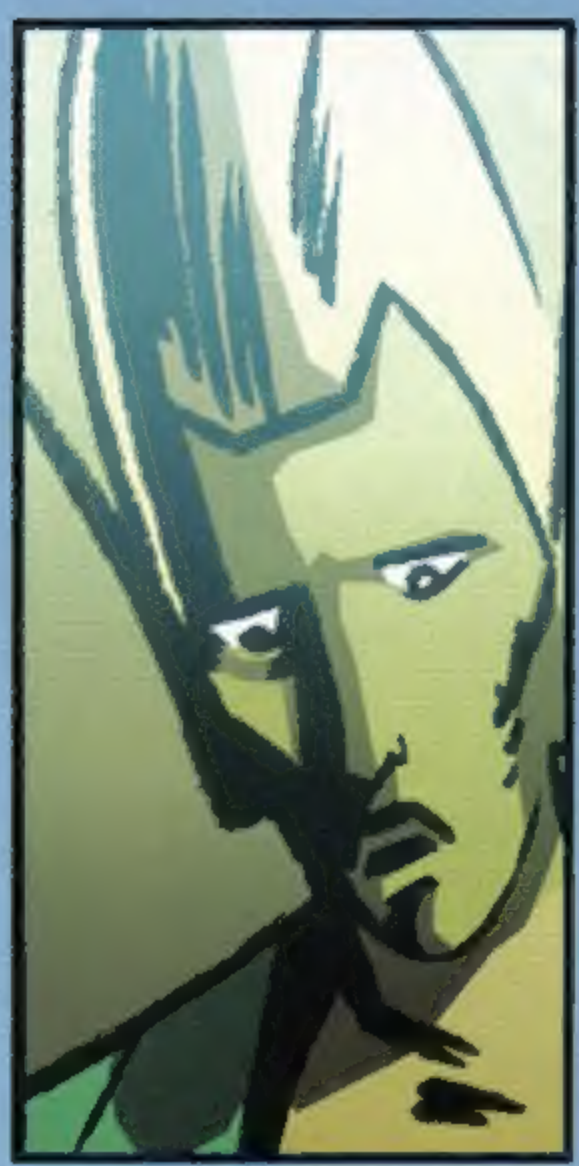
PAPA—?

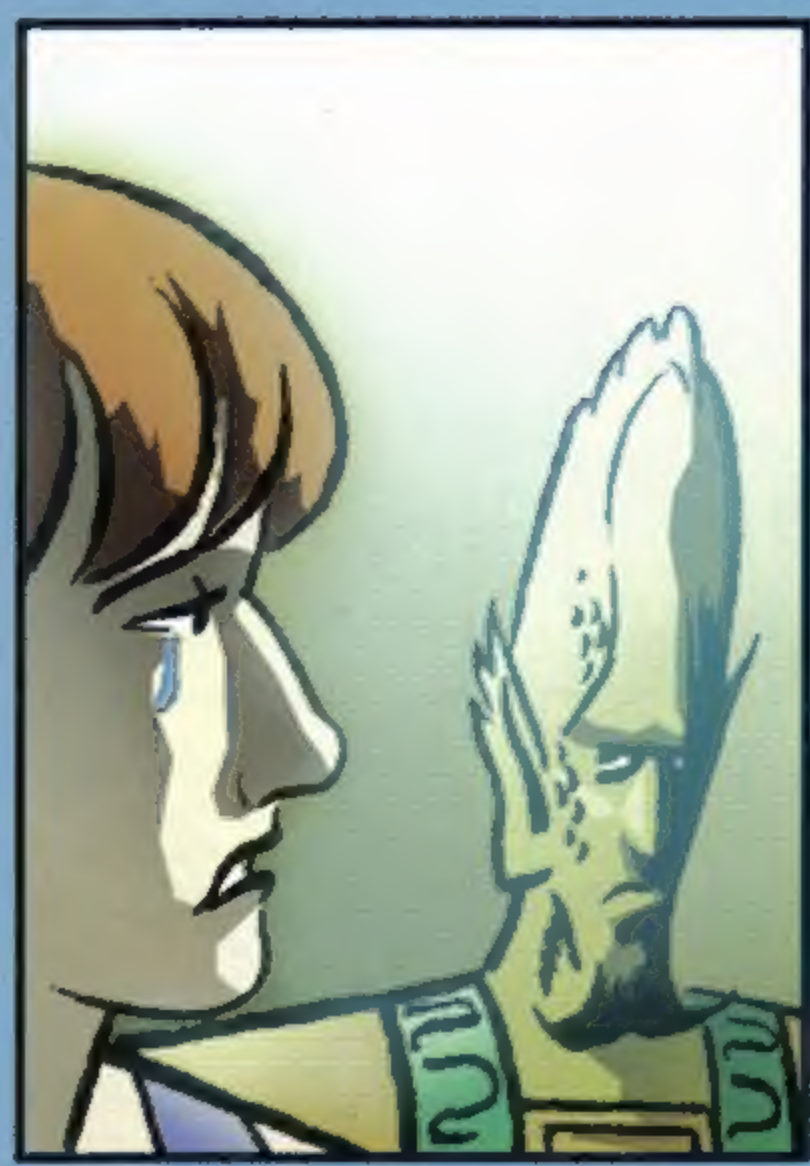

ZAP
NO!
...AND YET IT SEEMS THAT THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING MORE FOR HIM TO LEARN.




AGITA...?

NO— NO, NO, NO, NO...
IS SHE...?
SHE'S DEAD.





FIRST YOUR OWN WIFE— NOW YOUR OWN DAUGHTER... KILLED AT YOUR HANDS!
WHAT FOR?!
KLJUCO? IS THIS HOW YOU DEMONSTRATE THE SUPREMACY OF THE MALE?
IS IT?

MAY I SUGGESSST THE ROYAL HOUSESSS IMMEDIATELY RATIFY THE ASSSCENDANCE OF EMPRESSS KWAN AND PLACE KLJUCO ON TRIAL FOR CRIMES AGAINSSST THE EMPIRE...
...OR WOULD YOU DESSSTROY ALL YOUR CHILDREN?

SHE SAVED THE EMPRESS' LIFE, DOCTOR. THAT LITTLE GIRL PREVENTED DRACONIA FROM DECADES OF CIVIL WAR!
YES, YES, SHE DID.
WHAT A SHAME THAT THE ONLY THING THAT COULD WAKE UP THOSE IDIOTIC ARISTOCRATS WAS THE DEATH OF A CHILD.

SHE SAVED MILLIONS. BUT I COULDN'T SAVE HER.
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT...
IT WAS MY FAULT, DONNA. I TOOK HER TO THE PALACE.

NO... IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, DOCTOR... THOSE DRACONIANS HAVE STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN, AND IF ONE INNOCENT HADN'T DIED AND ALERTED THEM TO THEIR FOLLY, THEN THOUSANDS OF INNOCENTS WOULD HAVE DIED, WOULDN'T THEY?
IT'S... HEART-BREAKING, I KNOW...

...BUT I THINK YOU'LL NEED THIS, TO REMEMBER AGITA.

AND WHEN YOU NEED TO TALK...